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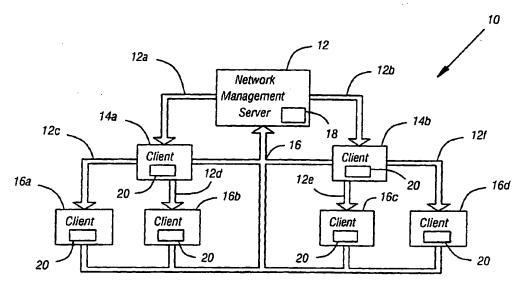
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(54) Title: PEER TO PEER SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Software packages may be distributed to a plurality of clients in a network by initially distributing the software from a server to one or more clients. Those clients may then be enabled to forward the software package on to other clients contained in a list of addressee clients. Each client that receives the software package may then be called upon, in turn, to forward the software package to additional clients on the list. In this way, the load on the network management server, related to the distribution of software to a large number of clients in a network, may be reduced.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internatio pplication No PCT/US 01/31157

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F9/445 H04L H04L12/58 H04L12/18 H04L29/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) HO4L G06F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fleids searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 850 396 A (GILBERT TIMOTHY G) 1,6,11, 15 December 1998 (1998-12-15) 16,21,25 column 3, line 58 -column 4, line 14 column 7, line 14-32 X EP 0 726 663 A (HITACHI LTD) 1,6,11, 14 August 1996 (1996-08-14) 16,21,25 abstract A EP 0 811 942 A (CYBER MEDIA INC) 1,11,21 10 December 1997 (1997-12-10) abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 17 December 2003 30/12/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Palent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Dupuis, H Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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